

## Finding Love In The Darkness by PurpleRoseSong

**Category:** Stranger Things (TV 2016)

**Genre:** Billy Hargrove Has Powers, Billy Hargrove Lives, Billy Hargrove Redemption, Billy Hargrove Tries to Be a Better Person, Emotional Hurt, Emotional Hurt/Comfort, F/M, Hurt Steve Harrington, Hurt/Comfort, M/M, Mind Games, Mind Manipulation, Not Human, Other Additional Tags to Be Added, Protectiveness, Self-Harm, Steve Harrington Has Bad Parents, Steve Harrington Has Nightmares, Steve Harrington Has Powers, Steve Harrington Has Self-Esteem Issues, Steve Harrington Needs a Hug

**Language:** English

**Characters:** Billy Hargrove, Demogorgon (Stranger Things), Dustin Henderson, Eleven | Jane Hopper, Erica Sinclair, Jim "Chief" Hopper, Jonathan Byers, Joyce Byers, Kali Prasad, Lucas Sinclair, Maxine "Max" Mayfield, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wheeler, Robin Buckley, Sam Owens (Stranger Things), Shadow Monster | Mind Flayer, Steve Harrington, Will Byers

**Relationships:** Billy Hargrove/Steve Harrington, Jonathan Byers/Nancy Wheeler

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**Summary:**

AU-

New Plot : strange occurrence's keep happening to Steve and Billy which in turn leads them down a path of no return as they are determined to uncover the truth, as secrets come to light and their relationship continues growing they soon realize their fight with the upside down is far from over and this time no one is truly safe.

old Plot : after Billy steps in to save Steve from the pain and hurt.....both find their not so different as they thought and in more ways then one when a shocking secret is revealed, now as their feelings for each other grow they find their fight with the upside down isn't as over as they thought and both fear this time it might just be the end of them.

# 1. Salvation

## Author's Note:

this story came to me when I was feeling sad after vids on youtube so I was inspired

## Summary for the Chapter:

Steve hurts....Billy saves him

he never used to feel like this,, the spiraling darkness inside of him. the weight of so much pressure crushing him to the brink where he wanted to scream, he felt like he was swallowing sandpaper sometimes and felt that no matter how hard he tried to be happy for Nancy and Jonathan. no matter how hard he tried to act tough around Billy Hargrove and be the person the kids could, would look up to there was a still small voice in the back of his head always telling him that he wasn't good enough. a still small voice every time he looked at Nancy and Jonathan saying she never loved him, telling him she was happy to be rid of him and that he was just ruining her life. then there were the voices telling him the kids tolerated him, that he was just dragging them down along with himself. that everyone found him an annoyance and a burden, that Billy was the only one who could see that he really was just a waste of space and that no one really cared about him.

these thoughts had always been there, the problem was he always had the strength to clamp it down because he took inspiration from Hawkins own sheriff who though his life seemed rough and it seemed like he too had no one he gave Steve strength, but then he became one of the gang and adopted El and somehow Steve slowly found himself wondering if he'd truly find someone to be able to help him heal and rebuild his life. but after the snowball and Billy nearly dying at the hands of the upside down and Hopper actually dying Steve found there was nothing to cling to anymore, he felt sick when he learned Hopper died. tried to cling to Robin but she didn't truly understand, she was someone who was spontaneous and out there.

like how he had been, he was terrified to confide in everyone because

he feared they'd leave like Tommy and Carol had. sure he knew they were never his friends but they were his shield, they helped him feel something other than the pain inside. but then they left him behind, Nancy was a bright light who saved him but when she dumped him and went with Jonathan he forgave her because she was too kind and good for him not to. the kids were still around and yes he drove them from place to place but.....he still felt lonely. still felt he was on the outside looking in, Billy had changed however after the upside down. he ditched Carol and Tommy instead of the other way around and started hanging out with the gang, it also seemed his scars were temporary due to the mindflayers curse he had when he possessed Billy. he was still his good looking self and wasn't that a bitch, here Steve was crushing on someone who would never take a second look at him let alone want to be his friend. it hurt, this gnawing pain in his chest.

he hadn't thought about self harm before Hopper died, or he had but never gave it second thoughts or even followed through. yet he stared down at the number of cuts on his left arm, there were only a few but they were noticeable for those who were looking, yet since summer was over now....no one would be asking why he was wearing long sleeved shirts. but he feared even though he was hiding the pain so well he wondered how much longer he could pretend, how much longer could he go on feeling like this. go on acting like everything was fine, like his life was fine, like he was fine. pretend that he hadn't wished for death since the moment his parents found out he was not what they wanted him to be, since he found out he didn't really have any friends.....or at least that's what the voices told him. swallowing thickly he tried to not let it get to him but each and every fucking night he screamed into his pillow as hot tears fell down his face over the emotions and the pain of his life threatened to swallow him whole, like today for instance.

he could cope with most things, he could handle most words. Robin was out sick today from the video store and Steve had been assigned in checking in all the late movies as well as restocking the shelves, the week so far had seemed like it was going good. his hands weren't shaking anymore, his head didn't hurt as much as it used to. he cried less sometimes and he was able to smile for a moment, he had been finishing up the last of the restocking before his break when he heard

the bell but didn't turn.....too used to people coming and going in the store "well if it isn't the resident psycho" he heard and he froze. he was deemed a psycho after Billy went around saying how Steve had drugged him, blamed it on him instead of his sister. Billy had apologized but it seemed to stick and well here they were "hey I'm talking to you freak" he heard and was spun around to meet the eyes of Benjamin not Tommy, he was the size of Billy in weight and he looked smug.

he also snorted as he shoved Steve sending him into the counter and causing the movies to fall to the ground, he slipped down the wall when he fell and heard the others laughing at him "oh look how the king has fallen, if you ask me he's not much of a king if he can't even keep his friends or his queen" Mark stated nastily at him and then Adam laughed as he nodded "I mean really, no wonder she didn't want you.....no wonder you have no friends. you hang out with kids and zombie boy.....seems your so pathetic I hear even they don't want you" he spat and then he snorted as he passed by Steve, see these he could manage to handle because he heard them all before. but when Benjamin turned around smirking as Steve stood what he said next had Steve's blood run cold "you know I heard from Carol the reason Billy didn't want to be around you is because you came on to him, is that true fag" he felt sick and as he turned, he saw their dark looks and he swallowed thickly to answer and deny this.

yet as he prepared to speak the bell chimed once more and upon seeing Billy enter the store Steve's eyes widened, he heard laughing and jeering "well I guess it must be true boys look at his face, fucking freak" one said and he felt like he might throw up as Billy looked from him and then to the others "what the fuck" he heard Billy state as he tried to understand what was happening "there's the freak's boyfriend now" another comment was thrown out and that's when Billy's eyes turned murderous "I'm what now" he hissed and turned his anger on Steve himself "I didn't say anything of the sort, rumors" Steve hissed out as Billy took a menacing step forward. Steve wasn't scared of Billy but he didn't want an audience if there was going to be another fight "nah, the Fag didn't tell us anything, a little birdie did though.....we figured you and the new freak were buddy buddy" someone laughed as they said this and Billy clenched his eyes shut and pinched the bridge of his nose then he strode forward as he

pinned Ben against the wall.

the group stopped laughing then since they knew they could not take Billy even if they tried, he was good at winning fights.....even ones against four people "listen here you little fuck, even if I was into Guys which I'm not.....it wouldn't be with Harrington got it" he snarled and the guy nodded in terror with eyes wide. when Steve heard this he felt like he couldn't breath because not only did Billy not defend him he made it clear they would never happen, Steve tuned the rest out as he cleaned up the counter and then he went to the back office to tell Keith he was taking an early break. where it found him was sucking in harsh breaths, trying to even his breathing but all he kept hearing in his head were the words *"even if I was into Guys which I'm not.....it wouldn't be with Harrington got it"* he was stupid. he had this fantasy that maybe one day Billy would be the one to come and save him from the hell he was falling deeper and deeper into but he was proven wrong.

he didn't know he was crying until he felt wetness on his cheeks, he sucked in harsh breaths trying to breath and bit his lip to keep the cries silent. he swallowed down the bile threatening to empty from his throat and clamped a fist into his mouth, he wasn't sure how long he sat there for.....crying, letting hot tears pour down his face, his eyes becoming red. all he knew was his throat hurt, his eyes hurt, everything hurt and he stood on shaky legs. he felt numb as he turned around, he could have sworn as he walked back inside however was seeing the tortured and guilty face of a certain blonde but he must have been hallucinating. he requested to go home early and Keith knowing from the look on Steve's face something happened he agreed and didn't question it, he knew the assholes who came in sometimes and knew there was only so much Steve could take but he didn't know the half of it. yet as Steve sat on the tub edge slicing at his arm he wondered if this was the time, wondered if he should just take the step over the line.

he bit his lip dropping the blade as his hands flew to his eyes and he felt his shoulders shake as he cried, he knew he was getting blood on himself but he didn't care. yet a thought popped into his head and he managed to clean and bandage his arm as he grabbed the blade and some pills after dressing, he rushed to the car and peeled out

knowing exactly where he was headed. the moon shone so bright in the sky and every star was out tonight, as he drove he felt more tears falling and he looked over to the passenger seat where the scotch was and slammed a hand on the wheel "FUCK!" he screamed as he drove to his destination. when he pulled up to the guard rail, the quarry he swallowed thickly and exited the vehicle. he walked over to the front of the car, he felt a sick kind of relief wash over him. he fell to his knee's in front of his car as his shoulders shook once more and then he pulled himself up and climbed on the hood, he laid there as he started drinking some of the alcohol.

the sky looked so beautiful tonight and he wondered if he was going to become one of the stars, he raised himself up on the hood and then sighed as he managed to let half an hour pass. he climbed from the car and slowly made his way to the edge of the quarry having received a new idea, he was drunk yes or close to it and he winced as he made a slice on his right arm and sighed as it numbed the pain.....he swallowed some more Alcohol "Harrington" he heard and he spun nearly falling off the edge. Billy stared at Steve with a frown and then Steve saw his eyebrows furrow, become wide in fear....he rushed over to Steve and slowly pulled Steve's sleeve up making Steve wince. oh, he must have slammed his arm harder than he thought because the cuts he made earlier in the night were bleeding again, if Steve didn't know any better it seemed Billy cared.

he raised his eyes, he was shaking and Steve saw tears shining "why do you care, I'm nothing remember" he blurted without meaning to which it seemed like Billy acted like he had been burned "I'm sor-" he started and Steve scoffed as he tried to yank his arm away but Billy was stronger so he proceeded to rant while Billy led them to his Camaro and rooted around for something "don't be sorry Billy, this isn't all on you, or anyone really.....it's all me. Steve the screwup, Steve the ex-boyfriend, Steve the one who doesn't know when to shut up, Steve the Bully, Steve the freak or Psycho, oh and my personal favorite" he shouted the whole time Billy was bandaging Steve's arm and he looked devastated as he saw old scars as well "Steve the Fag, the one who hits on other guys, the one no one wants to be friends with or wants to date, the one who mmfff-" his words were cut off when he felt a pair of lips on his own and he found his eyes fluttering closed. he smelled Vanilla and Mint, tasted strawberries and coconut,

but as sudden as it happened it ended.

he pushed Billy away and wound up slapping, not punching, but slapping him. the blonde became stunned but then angry which soon morphed into guilt and a sad kind of look as Steve started crying "fuck you Billy Hargrove, you don't get to do that, you don't get to say I'm someone you'd never date then try to save my life by acting like a friend or hero then kiss me.....you don't get that. fuck you" he hissed as his tears fell and he turned around realizing as he ran to his car that the whole ordeal had sobered him up, he drove off leaving a devastated Billy but found he couldn't care less. who did he think he was to kiss Steve when he adamantly declared Steve wasn't the one for him, Steve cried the whole ride home and when he parked he found himself sobbing now. he wound up lying down in the seat, managed to cry himself to sleep. yet when he woke that morning before the sun he held a hand to his mouth and then was throwing up on the grass out side, he knew he hadn't drank that much but also knew the trauma of his pain had got to him.

he stood on shaky legs and he turned to go inside when he froze and he wrapped hands around his torso as he looked to the ground "I can't leave it at what happened last night" Billy whispered as he walked over, he looked as Fragile as Steve and his hand was reaching for Steve. Steve let him "please let me fix this" he said quietly and then before Steve knew it he had Billy's arms around his body, his arms were around Billy's waist "let me save you Princess" the blonde whispered in his ear as the sun rose on another day. hearing this.....Steve broke, he felt hands running gently up and down his back and heard soothing words being whispered in his mind. he doesn't know why he chose to let Billy in at this moment or maybe he does but he knew he couldn't do this on his own anymore, he just wondered if Billy could truly handle the highs and lows of Steve. he wondered if he'd see how bad it was and run too.....like Steve's parents. or would he stay, would he stand by Steve's side.....would he care.....would he love.



## **2. Rescuing a Princess (Billy POV to Salvation)**

### **Summary for the Chapter:**

Billy reflects on his own feelings and his own issues as he takes the first step to making amends and building a relationship with Steve.

### **Notes for the Chapter:**

By the By Billy cuts his hair and here is a link of what it will look like :

<https://productplacementblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/New-Balance-Blue-Sneakers-of-Dacre-Montgomery-as-Nick-in-The-Broken-Hearts-Gallery-Movie-3.jpg>

when Steve woke he wished he could say he felt better, wished he could say he was okay now and the pain was gone. he wished he could say he was healed and thanks to drinking and Billy he was able to move on from the ache and pain.....he'd be lying. for when he woke, next to Billy on his parents too big bed because the only time they came home was to berate him for his failures, dredge up his father's past successes, or downright verbally abuse him for not being good enough to carry the Harrington family name.....as they never slept in the bed and seemed adamant to not even mention Steve as their son if they could help it. they did mention him, but only when he was with them.....so when someone asked about him when he wasn't there he was sure they'd make up some excuse or shrug it off and then start droning on about his failures as their son.

Steve sat up abruptly and swallowed thickly shaking his head and hugging his body, he sighed breathing deeply as he tried to shake the emotions from himself.....his room looked so neat.....so pristine. he wondered why he didn't, why his insides felt like they were slowly cracking and threatening to shatter into a million pieces. the rain was falling outside and he snorted silently at the irony was that it fit his mood perfectly at that very moment, he sighed as he bit his lip but then found himself jolting and turning around when he felt a hand on

his shoulder. Billy looked concerned and part of Steve angrily resented him for that...for why should he be concerned when he hurt Steve yesterday with his actions. but then the weak and vulnerable part of him smiled sadly and nodded when asked if he was okay, Billy didn't look convinced "I get it, I won't push though" he told Steve.

Steve wondered if he should admit what happened so long ago, admit the abuse his father had unleashed on him. sometimes it wasn't verbal, sometimes it was physical. never major though, usually a slap to the face, a punch in the gut, a hand on his neck but always when his father had a bad business deal, usually when he was drunk. he swallowed thickly however and nodded making Billy shake his head in a sort of nod and then he climbed from the bed "I'll make us some breakfast ok" he simply said timidly and was gone before Steve could even respond, it was weird. ever since Billy survived being possessed not to mention his wounds mysteriously healing he had been acting differently. yet El had checked him and confirmed he wasn't possessed anymore, she said he was normal from what she could tell. hell even Dr Owens had checked him over from head to toe and confirmed what El had said, but Billy was still the same Billy.

he was still cocky from time to time, still said the wrong thing sometimes like yesterday. still managed to act like a jerk and asshole to those he deemed deserved it, yet he also seemed like he was trying to not be that person anymore. he apologized for what he had done. he even said if he had to take back what he said he would but Steve grew fearful of the repercussions....he told Billy not yet. told him he didn't want to force Billy to do something he didn't want to, part of Steve selfishly believed Billy when he said he wanted to try but he wondered if the guy truly did want to try. he swallowed thickly as he sighed and then exited the bed and then the room, the clocked showed the time and he quickly realized they had slept till the afternoon. he shook his head and then sighed once more as he headed to the bathroom and closed the door, the shower did wonders for his muscles and aching body but not his aching soul or mind. he felt better afterwards but only briefly as he put his mask on, yet when he walked downstairs and into the kitchen he felt like the mask might fall.

Billy was setting the last of the eggs and bacon on the table and Steve

felt dread filling his body, he ate don't get him wrong.....but he ate healthier than that. he was afraid because the insecure voice seemed to want to rear it's ugly head, he didn't have an eating disorder.....yet. for which he was thankful of this but he wondered if he could sit there and eat next to Billy knowing the fear in his mind "hey, are you okay" he heard and then his eyes met Billy's he looked to the food which had Billy frowning and he sighed as the truth spilled from his lips "my parents....." he started and then bit his lip. Billy made Steve look at him and he frowned "Steve what is it" he asked sincerely and Steve felt warmth and safety wash over him from the look he was given, felt he could trust Billy not to run and tell anybody. so he spoke "my parents used to complain about my eating, told me they didn't want a kid who constantly ate and just gained weight. told me that food like this wasn't good for their image" by the time he said the last word he was whispering and his lip quivered, he felt shame wash over him and his cheeks reddened.

he managed to look away and when he looked back he saw a dark look he never saw on Billy's face before, he wasn't looking at Steve but behind him. then his look turned sad as he looked back at Steve "fuck.....them" he ground out and gently grabbed Steve's cheeks "what I did yesterday wasn't okay, I was angry at the world....was scared and felt alone because of what happened in July.....but I say this and hope you believe it" he said and for the first time.....Steve believed him. he felt Billy was telling the truth "you can eat whatever you fucking want, fuck them for hurting you like that.....there is nothing wrong with you, do you fucking hear me" Billy told him, Steve saw a couple of angry tears fall and felt his own. this was new, Billy had never truly showed so much emotion for one person before and for him to throw away his pride to make amends for a nasty comment yesterday as well as try to prove to Steve he was all in was more than Steve ever hoped for.

he nodded and Billy leaned forward, he didn't comment or bully Steve for turning his head instead. didn't say anything harsh at him for Billy being forced to kiss his cheek, he showed he understood in his eyes. he got it, Steve was vulnerable right now....so he didn't push. he did however hug the guy, hugging him helped. Billy knew this because after a few moments Steve stopped shaking, he wanted to tell Steve about his own issues but he wanted to take on this sort

of role he made for himself. all this time Billy thought that Steve was stronger than him, all this time he thought Steve was able to handle the shit thrown at him. yet yesterday proved to him how much shit the Brunette was dealing with and going through that he realized he was just like Billy, the Brunette was struggling to stay alive and Billy would be damned if he'd stand by and do nothing. he couldn't stand by anymore, he wasn't sure what bad shit Steve was dealing with and he briefly wondered when he went from Harrington to Steve but he also knew it had to have been the night he nearly died and Steve visited him every day and night till he awoke.

or that's what Max told him and he believed her, when he came home from the hospital he was different. Max and her friends could tell, he stopped talking for a while and her and Susan or Mom as he was becoming accustomed to calling her now became worried. finally after a month of silence or a month of not lashing out like old times he was talking again and admitted he had to work through what had happened which was when Susan learned of the upside down because it spilled from his lips when he thought she wasn't home, The whole group....the kids and Joyce and them.....told her everything. somehow she believed them, she asked questions here and there but all in all she just stated it made sense now but never clarified. in turn Billy managed to try to move on from it but the more the thoughts dwelled inside his mind, the more the memories of what happened seemed to bleed into him.

he became angry, became enraged at the fact that this happened to him and felt his old rage returning. it simmered beneath the surface but he never unleashed it like he normally would, so halfway through august or more near the end he found himself picking up a few movies for Max and Susan to watch for her up and coming birthday when he heard it "well I guess it must be true boys look at his face, fucking freak" Billy had frozen in confusion as he looked from a conflicted Steve and a group of boys who seemed to be laughing and pointing at the Brunette "what the fuck" he started and finished in his head "have I walked into" he swallowed thickly preparing to leave and come back when his rage was pulled to the surface by one comment "there's the freak's boyfriend now" he wasn't angry at Steve. he was angry at this group putting him on the spot not to mention it was the old anger from when his father used to hit him and call him

a Fag, when his father used to say he wouldn't have a Fag as a son.

he felt the rage burn to the surface and didn't see the way Steve cowered away "I'm what now" he ground out, he then did notice how Steve cowered a bit and he felt guilt rising. he took a step forward to show he wasn't angry at him but became a little angry when Steve took a step back and showed defiance, he barely heard Steve's lame excuse of not having said anything because he knew Steve. he knew the guy liked to fight back, except if that was the case then why had he acted like he wanted to run from the store, what was said next had Billy absolutely livid because now he was mad that they were aiming their ignorance and bigotry at Steve Harrington himself but he didn't say anything about that instead to save face he used his own hate and Bigotry to squash their beliefs. he had tried closing his eyes and breathing deeply to try to calm himself but their laughter drilled in his head as he thought more and more of what his father had said to him "I won't have a faggot as a son, imagine what people would say" so he strode forward and pinned one of them to the wall.

he could take them if he had to yet he only spouted the hateful and angry words "listen here you little fuck, even if I was into Guys which I'm not.....it wouldn't be with Harrington got it" he then smirked when fear grew in the guys.....he thinks his name was Ben something, a junior now a senior in their old High School. he sighed as his anger calmed down and he shook his head.....he bit his lip knowing now that he said the wrong thing but then he chuckled "also if you or anyone else ever and I fucking mean ever say anything like that shit to Harrington or even go near him to hurt him or even look at him wrong again I will make you wish you were dead" he hissed quietly as he dropped the guy and feigned straightening his clothes, he smirked when they looked absolutely terrified "are...we....clear" he hissed and they all swallowed thickly and nodded. they tucked tail and ran from the store and Billy smiled, he however noticed Steve was missing and then quickly grabbed the movies he swore to get for Max. he then rushed from the store with them in tow and was preparing to leave the store in his anger when as he sat in the camaro he happened to turn, guilt churned in his gut and he threatened to empty his stomach when he saw Steve.

he was shaking like a leaf, he looked pale and his cheeks were wet.

his eyes were red as he desperately tried to wipe them and Billy saw him try to muffle his crying. he felt sick, had Steve heard everything or only some of what he said. he feared the worst and when Steve looked his way it was like he was looking through Billy and couldn't see him, he felt hot angry tears fall from his own face as shame spread through him, he sped off towards home. when he got there he was glad Maxine and Susan were gone for a bit before he raced to his bedroom and broke down, he was angry at himself for hurting Steve. before he wouldn't have given a shit but after being possessed he heard everything, he saw everything. saw how Steve fought to protect his friends through that monsters eyes, saw how brave and strong the guy was. saw how he risked his life again and again for those he loved, yet he also saw the others.

saw how the kids had to give up parts of their childhood to save the town, saw how mother and a new father fought to protect their kids fiercely. saw how Wheeler and Byers fought to survive and almost died because of said monsters, so when he next awoke he found it was becoming darker outside but the sun had yet to set. his eyes shot to the drawer he hid the alcohol in and he sighed as he stood up and changed quickly before he grabbed the bottle and left. yet when he reached his destination and saw who was there he felt bile rising, he exited the vehicle without the alcohol and took some steps forward seeing how close to the edge the other was "Harrington" he stated and he saw Steve's glassy look, he was drunk. he looked like a cornered animal sort of and Billy furrowed his brow and looked the other over, his fear grew when he noticed the droplets of liquid on the dirt. it took only a second for him to piece it together before he was rushing to the other guy, he pulled the sleeve up and sent out a silent apology as Steve winced.

he managed to hear the guy ask why he cared.....even saying that he believed that Billy thought he was nothing and tried to apologize before Steve was trying to yank his arm free, Billy didn't let him and dragged him over to his car rifling for bandages of his own, heard Steve cussing him and ranting about how much of a bully Billy was and he let him. he knew these cuts, he knew they were self inflicted because once upon a time when he was much younger he did that. the bandages now were for when he fought, for when his knuckles got busted up. for when his father beat him, he still carried them

around just in case, Billy started to Bandage Steve's arm and felt sick at the old scars making him wonder how long Steve had been doing this when what Steve said had him feeling like ice was in his very soul "don't be sorry Billy, this isn't all on you, or anyone really.....it's all me. Steve the screwup, Steve the ex-boyfriend, Steve the one who doesn't know when to shut up, Steve the Bully, Steve the freak or Psycho, oh and my personal favorite" he became angry at these word.

so when he finished and Steve started yelling again about how he was the Fag, the one who hit on all the guys, the one no one wants he just reacted. he kissed Steve, he wanted to pour what he was feeling into the kiss. but soon he was shoved away, he felt a slap to his cheek which this actually hurt and became stunned. then his anger rose but quickly diminished when he saw Steve's face "fuck you Billy Hargrove, you don't get to do that, you don't get to say I'm someone you'd never date then try to save my life by acting like a friend or hero then kiss me.....you don't get that. fuck you" Billy heard and he reached forward as Steve turned but it was too late and Steve was speeding off. thinking quickly he raced to his own car and sped off following Steve's headlights, he pulled up to Steve's house and turned his car off. that was when he heard it, his heart breaking every second. Steve wasn't just crying, he was letting out sobs of despair and anguish and it cut into Billy like a knife. he didn't want to just sit there so he exited his car and when the crying became silent he slowly walked over, Billy realized Steve had fallen asleep and he bit his lip.

he turned and walked over to the porch and sat down, he doesn't remember falling asleep but he found himself waking with the sun. he heard retching and winced realizing Steve was awake now and stood as the door slammed, he reacted before thinking and found himself walking towards a stunned and sad Steve "I can't leave it at what happened last night" he stated as Steve looked to the ground. he timidly reached out and was afraid Steve would pull away but sighed in relief when he let Billy wrap his arms around him "please let me fix this" he whispered in the others ear, he felt Steve's own arms encircle his own body and bit his lip to keep from crying "let me save you Princess" he finally said and then felt more than heard Steve breaking. he slowly rubbed Steve's back whispering soothing calming words to help him as he bit back his own tears, when he managed to

calm Steve enough his worry and fear rose "are you okay" he had asked Steve only for the other's eyes to roll to the back of his head and for him to pass out.

Billy deemed it as exhaustion, he picked Steve up with ease and sighed as he carried him inside. he could have left, could have slept on the couch, but something inside of him broke when he saw Steve lying there on the bed. he looked so vulnerable and small that Billy had to, he managed to pull his shoes and jacket off before climbing in the bed. then he froze as Steve rolled over and laid his head on the others chest, Billy felt this warmth flow through him and this protectiveness wash over him. he knew what he had to do now, knew in some small part what purpose he had. he had someone who needed to be saved and protected, slowly he wrapped his arms around the other and allowed Steve's breathing to lull him to sleep. he was dreaming of the kiss he shared with Steve, dreaming of the pain etched on Steve's face when he awoke. he could hear the rain falling and quickly turned and saw Steve sitting up and looking lost in thought, when he touched Steve it was like a jolt. the guy turned looking afraid, but then he seemed to furrow his brow at whatever was going through his mind "are you okay" he asked knowing it sounded ridiculous as soon as he said it.

Steve nodded but Billy didn't buy it "I get it, I won't push though" was all he said to him, Steve acknowledged this and Billy gave a nod and then climbed from the bed. he said he'd make breakfast and he was afraid to leave but he wanted to do something for Steve, the whole time however his mind kept going back to the fearful look Steve had when Billy had when he touched him. it was when he turned setting the last of the food down and looked up to see Steve standing there in the kitchen and staring at the table that he had just set for them, the backyard in the background behind him. he became worried and then made his way around the big table, as he stepped forward words poured from his lips "hey are you okay" he asked and Steve looked up meeting his eyes and he saw the fear there "my parents....." he started but then stopped and bit his lip. Billy saw his eyes close as he looked away and then he made Steve look at him as he opened his eyes again Steve what is it" he asked actually using the guys first name for the first time ever, he saw the moment Steve melted.



saw the moment he felt safe and he swallowed thickly as he came to a realization but ignored it for now in favor of protecting Steve, he listened to the bullshit that his parents had put him through. telling Steve that he had to be healthier, that it was bad for their family image, that they basically didn't want a fat kid. fuck that shit, was what Billy's mind supplied. Billy saw Steve look away and his anger grew when he noticed the shame he knew all too well showing on Steve's face, his eyes shot to a picture he now knew was so fake it made him sick on the wall behind Steve. it was a Christmas photo of Steve and his parents smiling, but now as Billy looked at it he could see the strain in Steve's face. could see how hard he tried to not cry, he could see the resentment in the fathers face and the disappointment in the mothers, though they wore smiles he knew something had happened that day. he became sad all of a sudden and was gently grabbing Steve's cheeks "fuck.... them" he hissed in rage, he then willed himself to calm down long enough to speak again.

"what I did yesterday wasn't okay, I was angry at the world....was scared and felt alone because of what happened in July.....but I say this and hope you believe it" he was half honest, he had been angry at the world, he had felt alone and scared.....but he also felt the memories of his father bearing down on him and he lashed out. so he wanted Steve to not let assholes like his own parents ruin his life, he suddenly felt a couple of tears fall and was surprised when Steve didn't comment on it he did however nod and then Billy leaned forward. he wasn't angry when Steve turned his head, he understood. he did however hug the guy, it helped. when they parted Steve had sat down and timidly started eating, Billy didn't rush him nor did he make him eat more than he was comfortable with. he occasionally looked over and found himself watching Steve with protectiveness inside but he always managed to shoot a smile the others way, when they finished he offered to do dishes.

after he placed the last dish on the rack he found himself walking towards the backyard and sighed as he exited through the doors, seeing Steve sitting on the patio chair he walked over to him and sat down next to him. he wasn't going to say anything so he jumped a bit when Steve started speaking "I have nightmares sometimes of the upside down" he heard the other say, Steve wasn't going to say anything really either so it surprised him when he divulged this news.

Billy frowned at this as he looked lost in thought and Steve wondered if he said the wrong thing, except he hadn't since Billy too felt he had the same issue "me too" he whispered causing Steve to look up from where he had been facing the ground. an understanding passed between them and Steve found Billy reaching out and taking his hand, no more words were said as both just enjoyed the silence. Billy wasn't sure Steve wouldn't try to hurt himself again, but what he was sure of was he wasn't leaving his side anymore.

not after what he had witnessed, not after seeing the same pain he felt sometimes etched on Steve's beautiful face because that's what he thought about Steve. to put it in not so many words, he thinks he was falling for the guy. the realization he had earlier coming back, realization that he might be in love with Steve Harrington. not to mention the realization that he wasn't sure if he should admit this out loud just yet, they sat there for hours before it became too much and Billy promised to return. said he'd be back with food later, then he gave a smile and walked out the door. Steve however had come to a realization of his own, one that terrified him to death. he realized he just might be falling for the guy as well, realized maybe he had always been. with this thought he found himself shaking and then shook his head as he swallowed down the fear rising, he had to try to be strong, if not for himself then at least for the person who was trying to save him.....Billy.

Billy had the same thoughts in a way, he was trying to be strong as well because he didn't want to scare the other away. he was afraid as well that the wrong thing said or done might make things worse and he sucked in a harsh breath before he headed to his car, he knew the house was empty because Max was in school and Susan was working so he sighed and was thankful that doing odd jobs here and there for people was enough to save to get out of Hawkins. yet now he wasn't sure if he wanted to leave, his original plan had been to ditch this place he once called a hell hole yet now.....now he wondered what his plans were. he wondered if maybe he should bring the idea up to Steve, take himself and the Brunette as far away from there as they could get. he found himself cursing however at the thought because Steve wouldn't leave the kids, he wasn't cursing because he hated it...he was cursing because he got it.

before he never would have cared for those brats but now, now he just wanted them to be safe. he understood now why they acted so damn weird and frustrating all the time, understood why the young brunette girl was a little bizarre. he understood everything because it nearly killed him, it nearly had him saying his goodbyes to Max. sighing he slumped down on the bed and then he stood back up heading for the shower, from there he cleaned himself and then he dried off staring at his reflection in the mirror. he wondered if he should let his hair grow or cut it and then without another thought he was pulling the scissors from the cabinet, when he finished he felt more relief then he ever felt at the transformation and felt a weight lift. sure he loved his hair before but he wanted to change, if not for himself then for the others and Steve. he managed to clean the sink up and dress in something other then his usual clothes when he heard the front door, he braced himself as he exited the room and heard a gasp.

he turned seeing a shocked Susan, it seemed she got off early. Max wasn't with her but he knew she'd pick Max up later "Billy.....your hair" she said but she didn't sound upset, she tentatively ran a hand through his hair but then smiled warmly as he spoke "I decided a change was in order" he stated and then heard her chuckle. she grabbed the bags of groceries and he helped her as their conversation drifted to what other changes he was going to do in his life, when Max was picked up and came home seeing his hair she furrowed her brow in calculation then she offhandedly stated "your hair.....it looks.....it looks nice" she said unsure but smiled when he did. he was glad they were becoming closer as siblings and regretted his prior actions but she now understood why he was angry all the times before, he apologized and when the others didn't like it she got through to them not to question it. didn't mean he was for giving them rides though, that job seemed to fall on Steve. which now that Billy thought of it he found it strange how Steve felt he had to carry the weight of the world, in turn as he drove back to Steve's place after grabbing some lunch for them he found himself feeling happy that he stepped in.

he found himself thankful he didn't just leave Steve to his own devices and fend for himself and as he pulled into the driveway he also found himself lucky to have ever met Steve because he made

Billy question himself and what he was taught, he sighed as he looked at the house and grabbed the food before it became cold. then he stepped from his car and walked to the door ringing the bell, when the door opened he froze however seeing the red eyes, the broken picture.....the one Billy had been angrily staring at. his fist clenched and Steve noticed but Billy's anger only grew as he looked at Steve and saw the bloody nose and heard noises towards the back "Billy please don't" Steve whispered looking fearful, he looked to Steve and the anger seemed to slowly melt away. he took a step inside as he heard footfalls, then he gently grabbed Steve's arm in comfort.

the door shut, there was a clatter in the kitchen and then the shatter of glass, Billy heard someone's muffled angry shout and then a door banged against the wall "I don't know why we put up with him anymore, he's insolent and doesn't understand how this makes us look" Billy heard being shouted and then he looked to Steve who trembled and looked to the ground. Billy wasn't just protective and mad now, for when the man who called himself Steve's father rounded the corner and took one look at Billy. when he stared at the way Billy had his hand on Steve's arm and then glared daggers at Billy, the way he spoke "who the fuck are you" Billy became livid. he became enraged and before he could think he had Steve behind him and venom was being spat from his mouth with no fear of what was to come "I'm his fucking friend is who" he hissed and waited with Steve trembling behind him for the piece of shit father to make....the first.....move.

### **Notes for the Chapter:**

okay so I wanted to leave a cliffhanger because I want to decide if I want Billy and Steve's father to get into a fight, or if I want Steve and Billy to just leave, or maybe something else.....mainly because Steve's father is drunk and when he drinks he gets angry and well you know the rest.

also Steve's mother isn't a good mother because she stands by and agrees with whatever her husband says, she stands by because she cares more about their image and wealth than their own son.

more soon to come so please do not hesitate to comment, Kudos, and Bookmark if you want to.....love you guys

**Author's Note:**

wasn't sure and still am not sure where this story is going to go but please bear with me and I hope you enjoy it.